State and Local Parks

Regulations:
- Department of Transportation Act, Section 4(f)
- 36 CFR Chapter 1 - Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, Section 6(f)

Definitions:
- None

Coordination:

The Project Planning Engineer should seek to identify parks within the project area early in the scoping process. State and local parks will likely be identified through:
- the initial project site visit
- GIS Layer on the Environmental Features Map
- Discussions with State Park officials as well as local county and municipal staff to identify existing or future planned parks.
- the Long Range Transportation Plan or CTP for the area, if available
- the Community Characteristics Report (CCR) and/or Community Impact Assessment Report (CIA)

Both state and local parks are offered protection under Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act and Section 6(f)(3) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act.   Federally funded projects are subject to the requirements of Section 4(f).   All State and Federally funded projects are subject to the requirements of 6(f) if the park in question was built or improved with the assistance of the LWC Funds.

For school playgrounds, coordinate with the local municipality or school to determine if the playground has also been designated as a park.

Early identification of parks and potential impacts is critical in the decision making process when choosing alternatives.

The Community Studies Unit will routinely identify state and local parks in the general vicinity of the proposed project, as part of their Community Characteristics Report (CCR) and Community Impact Assessment (CIA).   These reports will note the following:
- park location and its local importance
- how the park is used
- associated travel patterns
- impacts from proposed project alternatives on the park, including potential changes in access to the park

Reference the Section 4(f) Procedure for additional information and the Scoping Process for scheduling and timing constraints for requesting the Community Characteristics Report.